Message Text

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2.1

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AGR-05 COME-00 TRSE-00

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R 211755Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1232 INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON AMEMBASSY LONDON AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, UK, GY

SUBJECT: UK TO CONDUCT AGRICULTURE FEAS-

IBILITY STUDIES IN GUYANA

1. DURING VISIT OF UK AID OFFICIAL, GOG ANNOUNCED THAT HMG WILL SUBSIDIZE TWO AGRICULTURAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES WHICH COVER TWO AREASTOTALLING 60,000 ACRES. TWO AREAS ARE CORENTYNE AND NORTH WEST DISTRICT. GOG'S NEW AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS CORPORATION (GAPC) WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO DEVELOP LARGE-SCALE STATE FARMS, APPARENTLY UNABLE TO FORMULATE VIABLE PROJECTS WITHOUT SUCH OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE. GOG RELEAE NOTES THAT GAPC WILL COOPERATE WITH UK'S TROPICAL PRODUCTS INSTITUTE.

2. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOG DOES NOT GIVE DETAILS OF PROPOSED STUDIES, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT CORENTYNE PROJECT IS TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF NEW SUGAR PLANTATION, POSSIBLY EXTENSION OF BOOKER-OWNED SKELDON ESTATE. GAPC, WHICH HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR ALMOST ONE YEAR, IS GROWING BUREAUCRATIC ENTITY WITH THUS FAR LITTLE TO DO. UK-SPONSORED STUDIES COULD PROVIDE IMPETUS FOR GAPC TO GET MOVING. AT ANY RATE, PROJECTS WILL MARK UK'S ENTRY INTO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, A SECTOR TO WHICH USAID, PRC AND IBRD ARE ALREADY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

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Message Attributes

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